

Director, Emergency Management LEPC Report (17 May 07)

Training: Attended the Spring symposium for DES during the week of April 16th, and attended Public Information Officer training the week of the 21st of April.

Grants : After a meeting with the Commissioners and Sheriffs office, it has been decided to acquire a trailer (through the Sheriffs office) and DES will work with Barbie on a grant for the equipment for the Mobile unit.

The WUI grant contract has been signed with Moonlight Basin and the work will begin the last week of May, 2007. My office, along with Risk Mitigation officer Joe Husar, have met and worked out an itinerary for advertisement and general introduction to the fuel reduction process that will be taking place at Moonlight Basin. I have worked with Rich Hohne (Marketing Director) on creating 30 second spots for radio advertisement from radio stations located in Dillon, Butte and Bozeman. The language is in the development stage and the advertisements will begin after the project is underway and visible for the public.

Unassigned Fire Districts: My office is in the process of collecting names of landowners that will need to be sent the petition for the annexation of the proposed FD for Alder and the creation of a new fire district for Virginia City. After discussion with the County Attorney, it was decided that I will write up the petition and after approval of the language by the County Attorney, will give to the FD's involved to mail out the petitions along with the explanation of the impact to the landowners. If no reply, a door-to-door will be conducted.

DES Association: I was nominated and elected as Vice President of the District III DES association. My duties will be to set up meetings on an as needed basis, preferably quarterly, and it is an excellent tool for our concerns here in Southwest Montana to be heard at the DES E-Board.

Sheridan Quake: At 9:48 a.m., the Ruby Valley was hit with a 4.8 earthquake. There were no deaths or injuries due to the quake. Capt. Steve Orr arrived on Scene approximately 10:00 and informed DES that the Director's appearance is requested. I assumed IC and set up the EOC in Sheridan's Kiwanis park. It was decided to call out the SAR and the CERT to conduct a house to house search. The Dillon PD, Beaverhead Sheriffs Dept, Madison Sheriffs Dept, Madison SAR and Highway patrol were all on scene to lend a hand. Jodi Briggs was designated as the PIO, and DES sent structural engineers for the town and DNRC sent Structural engineers for the Ruby Dam. A fly over was conducted by the US Forest Service (Mark Petroni), It was found that the earthen dams (irrigation) located in the Tobacco Roots were sound. There was avalanches and rock slides apparent.

A report was filed by my office to the DES and I also worked with Bob Fry and have written this up as an exercise.

Well done to all, it was an excellent reaction to what could have been a very bad incident.